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QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

# FORENSIC MEDICINE AND LEGAL PROCESS

RUSSELL  
GROUP

# FORENSIC MEDICINE IS A BRANCH OF MEDICINE DEALING WITH THE APPLICATION OF MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE TO ESTABLISH FACTS IN CIVIL OR CRIMINAL CASES

Queen's University Belfast has developed a new module designed to introduce relevant professionals including doctors, dentists, forensic nurses and lawyers to forensic medicine and the legal aspects of medical practice. This includes the role of the General Medical Council in the regulation of doctors as well as explain the role of the forensic pathologist in the investigation of sudden, unexpected and suspicious deaths and how forensic science can assist in the investigation of crime.

The course is wide ranging, providing participants with the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding as to how injuries are interpreted, cases are prepared for court and the court process as well as a special focus on the role of the coroner.

## ABOUT THE COURSE

The Forensic Medicine and Legal Process course will provide an inter-disciplinary context to help professional practitioners develop their generic knowledge, skills and understanding of the interaction between the medical, dental and legal professions in relation to forensic medicine.

The course will include consideration of non-accidental injury in infants and young children and forensic aspects of sexual offences. It will consider drugs and alcohol; their misuse and how these substances are detected and quantified. It will also consider various methods by which deceased persons can be identified, both single cases and mass disasters including DNA, dental records and other methods.

The course will include a number of formal lectures and group discussion sessions. In addition, candidates will be expected to take part in case presentations and comment on forensic case scenarios. There will also be an opportunity for participants to practice their courtroom skills by participating in a mock courtroom presentation and be subject to cross-examination.

## MODULE TOPICS

### INTRODUCTION TO FORENSIC MEDICINE

- Forensic Pathology
- Clinical Forensic Medicine
- Forensic Toxicology
- Forensic Psychiatry
- The Law and Medical Practice

### NATURAL AND UNNATURAL DEATH

- The Medico-Legal Autopsy
- Death Certification
- The Role and Function of the Coroner

### DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES

- Injury Interpretation
- Medico-Legal Significance of Injuries

### ALCOHOL AND DRUG MISUSE

- Drug/Drinking Offences

### CHILD ABUSE (NON-ACCIDENTAL INJURY)

- Sudden Infant Death
- Sexual Offences

### INTRODUCTION TO COURT PROCEDURE BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL

- Pitfalls in drafting Medico-Legal Reports

### PRESENTATION OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN COURT

- The Role of the Expert Witness

### THE GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

- Fitness to Practice
- Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service

### FORENSIC SCIENCE (INCLUDING DNA)

### PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO CONSENT

### CONFIDENTIALITY IN MEDICAL PRACTICE

## MEET THE ACADEMICS

### MS BARBARA JEMPHREY



Barbara Jemphrey is Director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies, LLB, CPLS, PGCHET, and Fellow of Higher Teaching Academy who qualified as a solicitor in 1989. She worked in a private practice and in-house until being appointed to the Institute in 2001. She holds a judicial appointment, having been appointed Chairman of Northern Ireland Valuation Tribunals in 2007. Barbara was appointed External Expert of the Review Panel appointed by the Law Society of Ireland to review the provision of vocational legal education within that jurisdiction.

She was also appointed as a contributor to the Politics Plus Programme at Stormont Assembly and is the National Representative for the International Negotiation Competition as well as a Member of UK Universities Committee. Ms Jemphrey will be sharing her knowledge and expertise on the legal process with participants on the course.



Honorary Professor of Forensic Medicine and retired State Pathologist in Northern Ireland with international reputation, Professor Jack Crane joined the Northern Ireland State Pathologists department in 1980 as a registrar, later becoming a consultant and then appointed the department head in January 1990.

Professor Crane is highly regarded for his valuable contribution during his time as State Pathologist, having developed a forensic pathology service in Northern Ireland regarded with 'International Renown'. Professor Crane retired after 24 years having held the position during some of the worst violence of the troubles and will be sharing his knowledge and expertise on Forensic Medicine with participants of the course.

### PROFESSOR JACK CRANE

"I enjoyed the interactive nature of the course. It was excellent to be in an environment which brought the legal and medical worlds together and there was good peer learning throughout the course."

Claire Armstrong

Forensic Medicine and Legal Processes Graduate, 2020

### SKILLS YOU WILL GAIN

Upon completion of the course the practitioner will successfully be able to:

- Identify the potential causes of death in a number of different scenarios
- Apply the appropriate legal principles and procedures to medical practice generally and in particular in the event of a death
- Identify the nature of injuries and interpret these understanding their potential Medico-Legal significance in particular
- Non accidental injury in children, sexual offences and sudden infant death
- Prepare Medico-Legal Reports and be able to effectively utilize Medico-Legal Reports in Court

### FEES

This is a standalone module which is worth 20 CAT points and will be delivered over 10 weekly evening sessions from the designated start date.

More information on start dates is available on the website:

<http://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/MHLS/ForensicMedicineandLegalProcess/>

The fee for this module will be charged at standard postgraduate fee rate 1 –

- £32.78 - Per CAT Point (Home and EU)
- £655.60 - 20 CAT Points (Home and EU)

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must hold a professional qualification and be registered:

- Medical or dental practitioners
- Qualified nurses undertaking forensic work or
- Practising solicitors or Barristers

We would also welcome applications from Coroners' Liaison Officers, Medical Advisers to the Coroners' Service as well as those working for Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

### HOW TO APPLY

Apply using our online Postgraduate Applications Portal [go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply](http://go.qub.ac.uk/pgapply) and follow the step-by-step instructions on how to apply.

### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

If you need further or more detailed advice about the admission to Queen's, the Postgraduate and Professional Development office in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science is happy to answer your questions. For further information, please contact:

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Visit our website for further information:  
[qub.ac.uk](http://qub.ac.uk)